

# East Washington Joins The Times Fight on Gas And Adopts Resolutions

Citizens' Association Also Calls Attention to  
Grade Crossings and Suggests Prompt  
Legislation to Govern It.

The East Washington Citizens' Association has joined the fight for cheaper gas, and at the monthly meeting held last night resolutions were adopted strongly commending the Commissioners and the Corporation Counsel in their efforts to prevent the proposed increase in the capitalization of the two companies.

The following resolution was offered by Mosby Williams and unanimously adopted by the association:

"Whereas, our association has for many years been an advocate of a better quality of gas and a reduction in the price thereof to consumers as well as other improvements in the lighting of the city; and

"Whereas, this association has in numerous ways urged the same, notably in the years 1896-97, by a thorough investigation and the issuance of a printed report by a special committee and a submission thereof to the committees of Congress on the District; and

"Whereas, we are convinced from such former investigation, from information as to prices of gas elsewhere and from other sources that gas should be furnished our citizens at a reduced price and in better quality; and

"Whereas, we are satisfied that the proposed increase of capitalization of the Washington Gas Light Company will tend to embarrass or prevent the reduction in price and improvement in quality to which our citizens are entitled;

"Therefore, be it resolved by the East Washington Citizens' Association that we heartily commend the efforts of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia and the Corporation Counsel to prevent the proposed increase of capitalization of said company;

"That a copy thereof be transmitted by the secretary to the Commissioners and the Corporation Counsel."

Extracts From Report.  
Mr. Williams' read extracts from a printed report made by a special committee of the association several years ago. Mr. Williams stated that, through the efforts of the association, a decrease in the price of gas from \$1.50 to \$1.25 per 1,000 cubic feet had been obtained.

When Mr. Williams' resolution was first presented there was some discussion.

## POOR GAS AND HIGH BILLS COMPLAINT OF CONSUMERS

The universal complaint of the letters received by The Times from consumers of gas is that their bills are excessive, the pressure erratic and the illuminating qualities poor. Mrs. J. A. Killigan, 723 Third street northwest, asked The Times to tell her why her bill for November of this year is \$12.13, while the bill for the corresponding month last year was but \$3.88. Mrs. Killigan's house has seven rooms, with four people, as was the case last year. The household is careful in the use of gas and knows of no reason why bills should be greater now than a year ago. The bills for the year intervening were quite as variable.

It is well known that gas meters can be made to register fast or slow by manipulation of the pressure. Taking in connection with this fact the report of Mr. Runyon, inspector of gas meters for the District, for the year ending June 30, 1907, which shows the variations between the maximum and minimum pressure at the several testing stations to range from nearly 300 to over 600 per cent:

Station	Max. Inches.	Min. Inches.
Central (Wash. Gas Co.)	2.28	.80
Southeast (Wash. Gas Co.)	2.28	1.12
Northeast (Wash. Gas Co.)	2.50	1.25
Georgetown	4.20	.70

A total of 2,175 meters of the Washington Gaslight Company were inspected during the year on complaint of either the consumer of the gas company. Of these 1,595 were found defective; 422 being

fast, 716 slow, and 448 failed to register. Those registering incorrectly varied from 5 to 10 per cent. This record of meter inspection promises no relief for the consumer whose bill doubles or quadruples with no apparent cause. It costs the consumer 20 cents for inspection, in event the meter fails to show a variation of more than 2 per cent, and as a new meter frequently proves to be worse than the one removed, the citizen, finding the odds against him, as expressed by Mr. Green in last Sunday's Times, concludes to "grin and bear it."

The inspector found also that the quality of the gas frequently falls below the prescribed limit of 22 candle power. The Commissioners of the District directed the Corporation Counsel to bring suit under the act which provides that when gas shall be of less illuminating power, or of less purity than is prescribed the company shall be subject to a penalty of \$100 for each and every day during which such violation shall continue. Then follows the "joker": "Provided, however, That if it shall appear that such deviation from the above-named standards could not have been prevented by ordinary care and prudence, but was occasioned by some unavoidable cause, then the said penalty shall not be enforced."

It is clear that an effective system of regulation both as to quality and pressure must be had if the people are to have relief. The gas consumers of Washington are not alone the victims of these conditions. Since the advent of the Welsh-burner this condition seems to have become general, and the use of these expensive attachments seem to give scarcely more light than was formerly produced by the ordinary flat-burner.

The digestive impulse is the life of the stomach. If this is weakened, crippled by abuse—eating improper food—the rest of the body suffers also. The body and brain are nourished through the digestive impulse. Food is called for and, if proper in quality and quantity, the tissues are repaired as fast as mental and physical activity break them down. This is life. Grape-Nuts food not only meets the requirements of tissue-repair, but is a powerful source of vital energy. It contains the vital phosphates stored up in wheat and barley by nature. A food expert prepared this food so you can get these vital elements without bother, cooking or other effort than simple eating it. Eaten slowly, with cream, it is delicious and satisfies the "digestive impulse." It also quietly, systematically builds up brain and nerve. "There's a reason." Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

## Gas Meters Not Accurate, Asserts Injured Consumer

Editor of The Washington Times:  
I am quite resentful toward the gas man at this writing in contemplation of the bill for last month, which is twice as large as it should be. I live alone, with but one servant, and this servant and I are as regular as clock-work. The servant goes to bed before 9 o'clock and I before 10. Both are economical in the use of gas. During the hot months we do not read by artificial light, and during the cool months we run two burners less than an average of four hours. My gas bill should not vary more than 10 cents from month to month within the respective seasons, if at all; and yet within the last eight months it has ranged from 25 cents to \$2.40. But within this time I have lived in four different houses and had four different meters.

The question is, Is the meter sufficiently accurate and reliable for its purpose? My experience and observation lead me to think that the meter is a failure; for it is unusual to hear of one person ask another "What kind of meter have you?" The reply may be that it registers two or three times as much as is consumed or that "it is bulky; my bill for last month was so small that I am now running a few burners during the day for fear the gas man may swap on me."

Cannot some genius devise a method of exact measurement so a man may know that he pays only for what he gets? I did not start out to tell you all this, but to ask you to investigate a certain practice of the gas man. When a poor devil changes his dwelling he finds in the bill for the first month in his new shack a charge for "arrears." I think if he protests the item it is promptly rubbed out with apology. However, the gas man tries the trick on every fellow who changes residence and no doubt collects in the aggregate a vast amount of unearned money from the careless and thoughtless. I suggest that you ask all readers upon whom this game has been played to give you a statement of the fact.

PETER DALE.

## Gas Monopoly To Be Given Sound Airing

The Citizens' Northwest Suburban Association will discuss the question of the Gas Monopoly in Washington, the schools, and other subjects of interest at its monthly meeting 12:30. The meeting will be held in Masonic Hall, at 7:30, in the evening.

Capt. Jay J. Morrow, U. S. A., Engineer Commissioner of the District, and Col. John MacVicar, of The Washington Times, will address the meeting on the gas situation.

Colonel MacVicar has been asked to address a meeting of the Petworth Citizens' Association, at the home of D. J. Partello, 441 Eighth street northwest Tuesday evening. He will confine his remarks to the question of a lower gas rate for Washington.

## Takoma Park Association Commends Fight on Gas

Takoma Park, D. C., Dec. 4. Editor of The Washington Times: Acting under the direction of the Takoma Park Citizens' Association, I send you the following resolution adopted December 2, 1907:

"The Takoma Park Citizens' Association in special meeting assembled hereby indorses the attitude of the Honorable Commissioners of the District of Columbia toward the increase in capitalization of the Washington Gaslight Company, and the association respectfully requests Congress to pass the joint resolution drafted under the direction of the District Commissioners at the earliest possible date, suspending section 5 of the act of June 4, 1896, until the question at issue can be carefully considered."

"The association further commends the good work of the corporation counsel and the Washington Times, the Star and the Herald, in protecting the interests of the citizens of the District of Columbia."

"It is ordered that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the District Committees of both houses of Congress, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, the Honorable Commissioners, and The Washington Times, the Star, and the Herald." Very respectfully, JAMES W. DYER, Secretary.

## Water Will Run Up Hill For Gas Co., Says Letter

Editor of The Washington Times: Surely you deserve a bouquet of American Beauty roses for your fearlessness in championing the rights of the people of Washington. A little over a year ago you prevented the master builders getting a building monopoly. It was you that freed the Postoffice

## Gas Bill Jumped During Month When Lights Were Not Lighted

Letters from residents of Washington are still coming in to the editor of The Times complaining that not only are the rates high, but that there is undoubtedly something wrong with the meters, in that bills are sent in despite the fact that the gas is not used.

Stephen R. Whitney is one of those who complain that there is something radically wrong with the manner in which the amount of gas supposed to have been used is measured. Mr. Whitney says that he did not light a gas jet in his home during an entire February, but that when the first day of March arrived the never failing gas bill "as presented and found to be just 10 cents more than it had been for January."

Evidently there are some who are not inclined to frown upon the gas monopoly. James O'Donnell is one of those. In his opinion the Washington Gas Company is one of the best corporations in Washington, and the rates charged compare favorably with those of other cities.

The two letters follow:  
1101 D street northeast, Dec. 4, 1907.  
Editor of The Washington Times: I am very much interested in your effort to make the gas company do right and not let us, for they are certainly doing it now.

I am one of the victims. We live in a five-room flat and our gas bill is \$4.50. Upstairs a family has the same

flat, and now I hope you will succeed in freeing or running the Washington gas companies into a hole. John R. McLean must be a Baptist, because he gets so much water in the gas.

There is a universal complaint about the poor light and heating quality of the gas. Now, as Takoma is 20 feet higher than the city, I would think the gas would free itself from the water coming up hill for four or five miles, but I have frequently had my gas lights drowned out. So you see the gas company can really make water run up hill.

It is a common saying that water and air are free for all. Now let's see: I have a gas stove warranted to burn 20 per cent. less gas than the standard. My gas for cooking would not cost me a penny. Yet my gas bills are as follows: September, \$5.90; October, \$7.50; November, \$7.40. I think this is a long-meter time set to the key of G.

Now, I always close the blinds before lighting the gas, because I am afraid of being hauled into the Police Court for violating the smoke law. Still, I can recommend this gas for one thing: that it is suicide. I'm sure the darned stuff would kill a snake.

W. L. GAILMER, 300 Carroll avenue, Takoma Park.

WILL SELL OLD TOOLS.

Upon recommendation of M. C. Hargrove, property clerk of the District, the Commissioners have ordered condemned and sold at public sale a quantity of old tools, wheelbarrows, doors, inside blinds, etc., now in the repair shop at 12 D street northwest and the Canal street property yards.

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## Men's Cravenette Raincoats

Regularly Sold at \$20 and \$22

We bought 1,000 Cravenette Raincoats from the Goodyear Raincoat Company, of Pittsburgh—guaranteed absolutely waterproof. There are six different shades of gray in the lot. Coats are 32 inches long. These coats were made to retail at \$20 and \$22—we will sell them for

**\$9.50**

## Men's Suits and Overcoats

\$15, \$18, \$20 and \$22 Values

These suits and overcoats are from the big purchase we made, and though we have been selling a great many of them, the stock is complete as far as sizes are concerned. The suits come in black, medium, and long; silk and satin lined; handsomely trimmed. Black, blue, brown, leather, garnet, and green are the colors. All the credit you wish.

**\$9.90**

## Women's Tailor-Made Suits

Regular \$25, \$28 and \$30 Values

Just 3 of the finest chiffon broadcloth suits from last week's purchase. The tailoring is superb, the style perfect. Coats are made short, medium, and long; silk and satin lined; handsomely trimmed. Black, blue, brown, leather, garnet, and green are the colors. All the credit you wish.

**\$14.00**

## 50 Ladies' Long Coats

\$20, \$25 and \$30 Values

Ladies' tight-fitting and semi-fitting long coats made of the finest broadcloth and kersey, in tan and black. These coats are 32 inches long. Trimmed with velvet, although some of them are perfectly plain. We consider this the biggest bargain we've ever offered the women of Washington. All the credit you wish.

**\$9.50**

We bought \$10,000 worth of furs at 50 cents on the dollar—you'll save money buying furs here. Your Christmas furs will be laid aside by paying a small deposit.

**Credit THE FAMOUS Credit**  
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## FOURTH PRECINCT WINS FLAG TROPHY; OLDEST IN CITY

Major Sylvester today announced the award of the prize flag trophy to the Fourth police precinct, Capt. J. E. Mulhall, for the best showing made at the annual inspection of the members of the force and the several station houses. The inspection was completed yesterday.

This station house is one of the oldest in the District. The board of inspection found that the sanitation, ventilation and everything connected with the precinct was excellent. The members of the command presented an excellent appearance as to perfect attire, demeanor and short drill.

The Seventh and Fifth precincts followed in order as competitors. The trophy has been won by No. 7 for a number of years.

The Macfarland trophy flag was presented this morning to No. 10 fire engine company, Maryland avenue, near Thirteenth street northeast. The presentation of the trophy signified that the company is the best drilled, best disciplined, and best all round appearing engine company in the local department.

JAMES O'DONNELL.

**Died**  
SAMUELS—On Thursday, December 5, 1907, at 510 A. N. E. BLISS MAHIE, beloved daughter of C. V. and Mollie Samuels, aged 6 years and 2 months.  
Funeral from her parents' residence, 611 M street northwest, December 7, at 2 p. m. Interment private.  
Elsie Samuels was born in Washington six years ago and was the daughter of C. V. and Mrs. Mollie Samuels. Three weeks ago she was taken ill with congestion of the lungs and little hope for her recovery was entertained from the first.  
(Baltimore papers please copy.)

CHAMBERLAIN—Suddenly, on Wednesday night, December 4, 1907, at East Hyattsville, Md., GEORGE ANNA C. beloved wife of Caleb Chamberlain.  
Funeral from her late residence, East Hyattsville, Md., Saturday, December 7, at 1 o'clock p. m. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment at Rock Creek Cemetery.  
(Baltimore papers please copy.)

SARGENT—On Thursday, December 5, 1907, Capt. NATAN SARGENT, U. S. N.

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**Special Notices.**

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE Stockholders of the Washington Railway and Electric Company for the election of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting will be held at the office of the Company, 14th and East Capitol Streets, Washington, D. C., on SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 1908, between the hours of 1 P. M. and 3 P. M.

The Statute requires that the books for the transfer of stock shall be closed thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. Books for the transfer of stock will, therefore, be closed from December 20, 1907, to January 18, 1908, both dates inclusive.

Holders of Voting Trust Certificates must exchange them for stock certificates on or before December 19, 1907, in order to vote the same.

P. J. WHITEHEAD,  
Secretary.  
Dec. 4, 1907, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.

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Teeth worth \$5 for \$5; teeth worth \$10 for \$7.50; teeth of best material obtainable for \$10. Fossilized crowns, \$4.00; gold crowns, \$4.50; plastic fillings, \$1.00.

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Massive Quartered Oak or Mahogany finish Morris Chair; reversible cut Verona cushions; worth \$7.75. Special for..... **\$6.75**

Imperial Golden Oak Frame; claw arms; side head rests; removable spring seat; all upholstered in genuine Boston leather. \$15 value for..... **\$7.75**

Massive Quartered Oak Morris Chair, elaborately carved; best reversible cushions; handsomely upholstered; worth \$23. Special for..... **\$15.50**

**This \$13.50 Bookcase**

**\$7.75**

**This \$28.00 Sleepy Hollow Chair**

**\$17.75**

**\$7.75**

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